

Washington, DC – Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague attended a special Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing to examine the ongoing crude oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The hearing featured testimony from Deepwater Horizon, the company responsible for the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) that caught fire and led to the Gulf spill disaster, British Petroleum (BP), Transocean as well as EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Minerals Management Service Director Elisabeth Birnbaum.

Teague, referred to by Committee Chairman Oberstar as the “House’s Resident Oil Drilling Practitioner”, questioned the panel on the technical aspects of the drilling unit and equipment tests that were completed before the rig sank.

“With over 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, I know how to drill for oil, I understand the equipment, and I understand what can go wrong. It’s important to get all the details of what happened on that rig before taking action” said Harry Teague, a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “ Rightfully, many people are concerned about the safety and environmental risks associated with offshore drilling after this accident, but we need to be careful not to rush to judgment on this issue. I think most people agree that we need to make some changes, including improved oversight and ensuring that taxpayers are protected and big oil companies like BP are held accountable. But in the rush to respond we cannot take such a broad approach that we end up hurting America’s smaller producers and therefore our efforts to become an energy independent nation.”

The hearing examined safety regulations of MODUs and the environmental effects of the spill/spill response. The Committee also heard testimony from scientists, fisherman and other groups affected by the spill.



~~Harry~~ Harry Teague at the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing.